

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) A method of positioning a spray gun at a desired distance away from a target surface, the method comprising:

a. illuminating a pair of spots on a target surface by directing a first beam of visible light and a second beam of visible light emitted from spaced apart locations on a spray gun, wherein the first and second beams are angled to approach one another in a direction taken from the gun towards the target surface and offset sufficiently such that the beams spots are always offset from each other ~~do not touch one another regardless of the distance to the target surface;~~

b. moving the gun toward or away from the surface until bringing the pair of illuminated spots are in ~~to~~ a predetermined desired alignment pattern on the target surface whereby the gun is positioned to position the ~~at~~ the desired distance from the surface; and

c. causing the spray gun to deliver coating material to the target surface while maintaining the gun substantially at the desired distance by keeping the illuminated spots substantially in the predetermined desired alignment pattern by moving the spray gun generally parallel to the target surface substantially at the desired distance.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Canceled)

53. (Original) The method of claim 50 wherein the beams are offset vertically from each other such that the illuminated spots are vertically aligned with and offset from each other when the spray gun is positioned at the desired distance from the target surface.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein step a further comprises focusing the visible light to maximize the intensity of the illuminated spots at the desired distance.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein step a further comprises using a single laser light source to generate the visible light and directing the visible light from the laser light source into a beam splitter located downstream of the laser light source to provide the first and second beams.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein step a further comprises using a first laser light source to provide the first beam and a second laser light source to provide the second beam.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the first and second light beams present one of two separately recognizable relationship patterns when the gun is at a distance less than the desired distance and wherein the first and second light beams form the other of the separately recognizable relationship pattern when the gun is at a distance greater than the desired distance to the target surface.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57 wherein the one separately recognizable relationship pattern has one spot above and to a first side of the other spot, and the other separately recognizable relationship pattern has the one spot above and to a second side of the other spot.

59. (Currently Amended) A method of positioning a spray gun at a desired distance away from a target surface, the method comprising:

a. illuminating a pair of spots on a target surface by directing a first beam of visible light and a second beam of visible light emitted from spaced apart locations on a spray gun, wherein the first and second beams are angled to approach one another and vertically offset sufficiently such that the beams spots are always vertically offset from each other do not touch one another regardless of the distance to the target surface;

b. moving the gun toward or away from the surface until the gun is located at the desired distance from the target surface, wherein when the gun is at the desired distance from the target surface, bringing the pair of illuminated spots to are in a predetermined desired alignment

pattern relative to one another ~~on the target surface to position the gun at the desired distance;~~
and

c. causing the spray gun to deliver coating material to the target surface while maintaining the gun substantially at the desired distance by keeping the illuminated spots substantially in the predetermined desired alignment pattern by moving the spray gun generally parallel to the target surface substantially at the desired distance.

60. (Currently amended) A method of positioning a spray gun at a desired distance away from a target surface, the method comprising:

a. illuminating a pair of spots on a target surface by directing a first beam of visible light and a second beam of visible light emitted from spaced apart locations on a spray gun, wherein the first and second beams are angled to approach one another and offset sufficiently such that the beams are always offset from each other ~~do not touch one another regardless of the distance to the target surface;~~

b. bringing the pair of illuminated spots to a predetermined desired alignment pattern on the target surface by adjusting the distance of the gun from the target surface; and

c. causing the spray gun to deliver coating material to the target surface while maintaining the gun substantially at the desired distance by keeping the illuminated spots substantially in the predetermined desired alignment pattern by moving the spray gun generally parallel to the target surface substantially at the desired distance.